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Web-Page www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.

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❖ **M&T/Llano Seco Pumps** – It appears that the higher river flows have moved some of the remaining gravel from the pump intakes, but there will be some build-up occur. Speculation as to how long before the bar develops near the intake are being asked. Questions are also being raised as to the permanent disposition of the gravel.

The Department of Food and Agriculture has added its name to a broad list of rural counties and State and Federal agencies that have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to support the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

Discussion Items:❖ **Petition Request for Removal of Conservation Area Outer Boundary:**

The Chairman noted the three options available to the Board (1) Retain existing boundary, adopt new agricultural definition of use language within the outer area, and focus restoration on the flood and erosion prone lands within the IRZ (2) Remove the outer boundary, focus restoration on the flood and erosion prone lands within the IRZ, clarify Handbook language to indicate the SRCA will continue to coordinate activities outside of the IRZ related to activities within the IRZ (3) Remove the outer boundary outside the project levees, retain the outer boundary as currently defined upstream of the start of the project levees, focus restoration on the flood and erosion prone lands within the IRZ, clarify Handbook language to indicate the SRCA will continue to coordinate activities outside of the Inner River Zone related to activities within the IRZ. A public comment period followed with many of the stakeholders asking the Board to support the petitioner's requests to reduce the Conservation Area. Many expressed fears about the economic impacts to local economies by conversion of ag land to habitat and possible impact of large woody debris and siltation to floodways. Following the public comment period, action was taken by the Board to:

Approve the removal of the outer boundary of the Conservation Area, confine it to the Inner River Zone, and direct the TAC to discuss language to make the Handbook conform.

Amend the motion to leave the Conservation Area boundary as it is in Tehama and Shasta Counties.

Amend the motion to include language that indicates the SRCA will continue to coordinate with activities outside of the inner river zone that relate to the inner river zone.

- ❖ Other action by the Board: (1) Approved the Project Fact Sheet, with the addition of a township section/ range line and zoning information line, to be provided to agencies and private entities as soon as possible and (2) approval to enter into the legal agreement with O'Laughlin & Paris for legal advice and services if needed.
- ❖ The Chairman announced a draft Good Neighbor Policy, a product of the Landowner Assurances Committee, is available for review and comment.

Future TAC/SRCA Board and Committee Meetings:

The next TAC meeting will on March 21st, 9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows

The next SRCA Board meeting will be on March 28th, 4:00 p.m., Los Molinos Masonic Hall, *25020 Tehama-Vina Rd., Los Molinos, Ca.

The Landowner Assurances Committee meeting will be on March 21st, 1:00 p.m., Colusa Fairgrounds, Colusa

The next PILT/Econ Committee meeting will be on April 4, 10:00 a.m., Common Ground, Willows

(*from I-5 take Tehama/Los Molinos exit to Los Molinos, left/north on Hwy 99, turn left on Tehama-Vina Rd (1st road past shopping center) (building is on right side approx. ¼ mile)

❖ Frequently Asked Questions

Q Are the lands along the Sacramento River accessible to the public for recreational activities?

A This is one of those “It depends” questions. The Sacramento River Conservation Area is in the process of mapping ownership of lands along the River so those that want to recreate will know where they can. Property lines are difficult to identify, and ownership changes every so often, so if you are in doubt, contact nearby landowners or managers to make sure. The SRCA is also developing a strategy to improve access and facilities for recreation and other public use.

Most of the gravel bars that are obviously within the normal fluctuation of water levels can be accessed from the river for brief activities, however, if it is private land, permission from the landowner is best to avoid conflict. There are also public lands that may not allow public use: Lands that have been set aside for sensitive species habitat; Newer acquisitions that have not had a Management Plan developed; Or, easement lands where public access was not purchased.

State and Federal agencies have different rules by which they must abide regarding public access after land is acquired. Generally, DFG land is immediately open to the public, but may have other restrictions, such as the possession of firearms in a game refuge. USF&WS lands usually are closed until management uses are determined. Be involved in that public process to voice your desires. Access across private property to public land is also unlawful, unless permission is given.

While there are many locations along the river where public use is welcome, even encouraged, be sure to plan ahead, contact local landowners and make sure that the area you want to enjoy is available for your use, then be sure to leave it in better shape than when you came.

On February 19th Governor Gray Davis signed legislation (AB 1414) authored by Assemblyman Dick Dickerson to coordinate government land acquisitions. Under the new law, the Resources agency will coordinate land acquisitions for the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), compile a database of lands purchased and easements acquired, report annually the amount of land acquired and the money spent for the acquisitions, and require that the DFG prepare management plans within 18 months for all lands that it acquires.